

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CU-04 AID-20 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 NIC-01

SCCT-02 IO-14 DRC-01 /117 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3164

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2126

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: ROKG CLAMPS DOWN ON STUDENTS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KIM DONG JO ASKED TO SEE ME AT 6 P.M. APRIL 3. HE INFORMED ME THE CABINET WOULD MEET AT 10 P.M. THIS NIGHT AND EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER FOUR WOULD BE ISSUED. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THIS MEASURE WAS DESIGNED TO COPE WITH STUDENT ACTIVITIES WHICH POSE A THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY. THERE HAD BEEN WIDESPREAD DEMONSTRATIONS ON A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN SEOUL AND ELSEWHERE IN KOREA TODAY AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED THE DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION AND THE NATURE OF THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES POSED A SERIOUS THREAT.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE ORGANIZED ELEMENT BEHIND STUDENT ACTIVITIES WAS AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS THENATIONAL DEMOCRATIC YOUNG STUDENTS
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LEAGUE. THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED THIS ORGANIZATION

TO BE SUBVERSIVE. THEY ALSO BELIEVE IT TO BE COMMUNIST ORGANIZED OR COMMUNIST AFFILIATED. I QUESTIONED HIM CLOSELY ON THIS BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT EVIDENCE THERE WAS TO BACK UP THIS STATEMENT, OTHER THAN CITING THE FACT THAT THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS SIMILAR TO ONE ORGANIZED BY THE NORTH KOREANS.

3. EMERGENCY MEASURE NUMBER FOUR, WHICH WILL BE ANNOUNCED THIS EVENING, CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

A. ANY MEMBER OF THE ABOVE NAMED ORGANIZATION WHO TURNS HIMSELF IN TO THE GOVERNMENT WITHIN FIVE DAYS FROM THE PROMULGATION OF THE MEASURE WILL NOT BE PUNISHED.

B. THOSE WHO FAIL TO TURN THEMSELVES IN IF DISCOVERED WILL BE TRIED BY COURT MARTIAL.

C. MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION WILL BE PUNISHED BY

IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT LESS THAN FIVE YEARS AND UP TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR DEATH.

D. NO STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES WILL BE PERMITTED WITHIN ANY CAMPUS. IF STUDENTS STRIKE OR DEMONSTRATE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THIS MEASURE THE GOVERNMENT MAY ORDER THE CLOSING OF THE SCHOOL.

E. THE ARMY WILL RESPOND TO ANY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM MAYORS OR PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS DEALING WITH ANY DEMONSTRATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOW DRAWN THE LINES CLEARLY IN ITS CONFRONTATION WITH THE STUDENTS. IT IS NOW DEFINING ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AS BOTH SUBVERSIVE AND COMMUNIST AFFILIATED. WHETHER THE LATTER CHARGE IS SUPPORTABLE IS NOT THE QUESTION. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED NOT TO PERMIT ANY ORGANIZED STUDENT ACTIVITIES ON ANY CAMPUS FROM NOW ON.

5. DEMONSTRATIONS SO FAR THIS WEEK HAVE NOT IN THEMSELVES
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BEEN MASSIVE ALTHOUGH THEY SHOW EVIDENCE OF ORGANIZED LEADERSHIP. THESE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO BE A PORTENT FOR THE FUTURE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO TAKE STRONGEST MEASURES TO PREEMPT THE POSSIBILITY OF THINGS GETTING OUT OF HAND.

IN RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS QUERIES EMBASSY WILL REFUSE COMMENT. IF ASKED WE WILL SAY WE WERE NOT

CONSULTED BUT INFORMED SHORTLY BEFORE MEASURE WAS
ANNOUNCED.
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